

# The GOHSEP FOCUS

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

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## Directors Message



We are once again looking back at one of the state's worst disasters. Just weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated

Southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi coastal region, **Hurricane Rita** hammered Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas. Rita is sometimes called the "**forgotten storm**" because it did not receive the same national and international coverage as Katrina. In parishes like Vermilion, Cameron, Calcasieu, and Terrebonne the impact was just as severe. Many residents in these areas survived Hurricane Audrey in 1957 and faced replacing everything again in the fall of 2005.

Katrina and Rita are part of the reason our agency exists. The state continues to **build on the lessons learned** during those events and the disasters that followed. Because of **your hard work**, much of the recovery from Rita is complete. The communities are now stronger and more resilient thanks to mitigation and planning. While we look back on these events, it is also important to stay focused on the future and how we can help **Louisiana recovery**.

## KATRINA RITA

10 YEARS

Building a Smarter + Safer + Stronger + More Resilient Louisiana.



Hurricane Rita was the 4th most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the most intense tropical cyclone ever observed in the Gulf of Mexico. Rita was the 18th named storm, 10th hurricane, and 5th major hurricane of the 2005 season.

Hurricane Rita made landfall on Sept. 24, 2005 between Sabine Pass, Texas and Holly Beach, Louisiana just 3 weeks after Hurricane Katrina.



Storm surge of approximately 17 feet topped levees and inundated low-lying coastal communities in southwest Louisiana causing heavy damage. The greatest amount of damage extended across southern Louisiana from the Mississippi delta to the Sabine River.

In Terrebonne Parish storm surge was reported to reach approximately 7 feet flooding an estimated 10,000 homes. Many people became stranded in flooded communities and had to be rescued by boat.



Nearly all structures in Pecan Island of Vermilion Parish were destroyed were storm surge was estimated to reach approximately 10 feet.



In Cameron Parish, the damages were catastrophic! Coastal storm surge was estimated to reach around 15 feet leaving approximately 95% of the homes, businesses and infrastructure completely destroyed.

Calcasieu Parish suffered severe wind damage, and severe-to-light flooding from storm surge and rain. A casino boat and several barges broke free from their moorings, floating loose until running into and causing damage to the I-10 bridge span over the Calcasieu River.

Widespread power outages affected nearly 1 million customers in Louisiana, with Entergy reporting it as the largest outage. Badly damaged utility towers made restoration problematic, with many areas waiting months for utilities to be completely restored.

Hurricane Rita helped usher a new era of building codes in Louisiana's coastal communities...as the Louisiana legislature implemented new building codes that included home elevation requirements.

Southwest Louisiana's commitment continues to drive their recovery process and the State continues to support these efforts.



### Sept. 24th - 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Rita's Landfall

8:30 AM - Cameron Parish Police Jury Annex Building  
12 PM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Special Mass

### Sept. 24th - Iberville Parish FirstNet Outreach

Plaquemine  
12 PM - 1 PM

### Sept. 26th - Remembering Rita Hurricane Preparedness Day

Lake Charles Civic Center  
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM



# KATRINA RITA

10 YEARS

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*Pictures below show  
Hurricane Rita's  
devastating Impact*



## Citgo's 10 Year Commemorate for Hurricane Rita





# KATRINA RITA

Building a Smarter + Safer + Stronger + More Resilient Louisiana.



## Governor Jindal Issues Statement to Commemorate 10-Year Anniversary of Hurricane Rita

Today, Governor Bobby Jindal issued the following statement and proclamation on the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Rita.

Governor Jindal said, "The ten year anniversary story of Hurricane Katrina has been widely told; however, we must remember that just a few weeks after Katrina, Louisiana was struck by another dangerous storm - Hurricane Rita. We must not underestimate the effect that Rita had on the communities along coastal Louisiana. Dangerous winds and a catastrophic storm surge struck many areas already facing devastation left in Katrina's wake. From Terrebonne and Vermillion to Cameron and Calcasieu, communities were faced with unprecedented challenges. However, once again, Louisiana's citizens showed the world the resilience of our people. Communities came together with neighbors helping neighbors displaying incredible courage and a commitment to create a stronger and safer Louisiana."

### COMMEMORATING HURRICANE RITA

WHEREAS, on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 2:40 a.m., Hurricane Rita made landfall between Sabine Pass, Texas and Holly Beach in Cameron Parish, Louisiana to devastate Southwest Louisiana and caused damage throughout the State;

WHEREAS, Hurricane Rita was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Gulf of Mexico, registering at a Category 5 with winds reaching 180 mph before slightly weakening to a Category 3 with 120 mph winds at landfall;

WHEREAS, it produced catastrophic storm surge values of 12 to 18 feet across most of Cameron Parish and 10 to 12 feet across most of Vermillion Parish devastating these areas with flood waters

as high as 12 feet demolishing homes, destroying communities, and separating families, Hurricane Rita battered Southwest Louisiana and caused physical damage to public and private property and economic damages totaling in the billions of dollars;

WHEREAS, in Delcambre, Bayou Carlin Cove, a seafood and farmer's market has been completed, expanding their seafood trade and providing for more recreational fishing and boating, a new government complex in Cameron Parish houses the Sheriff's office, the District Attorney and the Police Jury, and two liquid natural gas facilities are moving into the area, boosting the economy and providing jobs for the citizens of Southwest Louisiana;

WHEREAS, homes were rebuilt, communities returned, families reunited, and the people of Louisiana exhibited resilience and strength, improving schools, the health care system, and the economy.

NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: We commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Rita and the destruction she left in her path, and remember the communities that were torn apart, the lives turned upside down, the homes completely washed away and the people who were displaced. While commemorating and remembering this devastating event, we also celebrate the recovery and incredible resilience of our people.

SECTION 2: We commend those who have faced adversity and walked through it improving themselves and their communities along the way. We remember the pain and loss they faced in the days following the storm and praise the progress that has been accomplished. We pray for those who have suffered from the disasters of previous hurricanes and storms and ask for continued protection over the state and its citizens from future storms that may threaten our way of life.



GOHSEP Deputy Director, Chris Guilbeaux speaking in Cameron Parish on Sept. 24th at a 10 Year Anniversary Event for Hurricane Rita



10th Anniversary of Hurricane Rita's Landfall  
Cameron Parish's View from the Front Line  
Hosted By: Cameron Parish Police Jury, Cameron Lion's Club  
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Delegation & Invited Guests may arrive at 8:30 AM at the Cameron Parish Police Jury West Annex Building

Refreshments and Video--All Over But to Cry

10:00 AM--Ceremony Begins

Opening Remarks--Cameron Parish Administrator, Ryan Bourriaque

Pledge, Star Spangled Banner, & Invocation

President's Welcome--Cameron Parish Police Jury President, Kirk Quinn

Hurricane Rita: The Impact--Former Parish Administrator, Tina Horn

Agency Remarks:

- FEMA Representative
- GOHSEP Representative
- OCD-DRU Representative

Essay Contest Winners--Cameron Lion's Club

NHMSC--Gray Stream

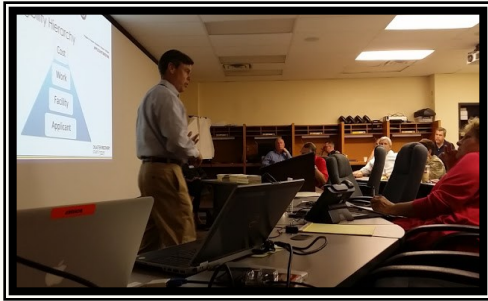
Benediction

Closing Remarks--Cameron Parish Administrator, Ryan Bourriaque

\*Immediately following Closing Remarks there will be a Community Cook/Out Lunch featuring local favorite cuisine as well as Media Availability in the Cameron Parish Police Jury Administration Conference Room.

\*Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church will also have a special Mass at 12:00pm for those wanting to attend.

## GOHSEP Conducts Applicant Briefings for DR-4228



The State of Louisiana was awarded a new disaster declaration on July 13, 2015. The declaration made PA funding available for eligible applicants within specific designated Parishes. GOHSEP's Disaster Recovery Division conducted Applicant Briefings in Natchitoches, Caddo, Bossier & Rapids Parish during July 2015 to educate potential applicants.



Sept. 22nd - Allison Hadley

Sept. 23rd - Mark Heidenthal

Sept. 24th - Alisha August & Thomas Forehand

Sept. 25th - Todd Hollenbaugh

Sept. 28th - Kasia Taylor

Sept. 29th - Katriel Gibson

Sept. 30th - John Callahan

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us in congratulating:

Emily Judice and Ross Herbert on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Rhett Anthony . Rhett was born on Sept. 21st weighing 7 lbs.- 8 oz. and 19 ¾ in. long.

David & Beth Schultz on the birth of a healthy baby girl Adeline Marie . Adeline was born on Sept. 10th weighing 7 lbs. - 2 oz. and 19 ¾ in. long.

Kelton and Kristi Noce on the birth of a healthy baby boy Gunner Kolt . Gunner was born on Sept. 9th weighing 8 lbs. – 10 oz. and 21.5 in. long.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yankowsky on the birth of their healthy grandson, Luke Matthew. Luke was born on Sept. 7th weighing 6 lbs. - 7.5 oz. and 19 in. long.

Welcome to our team!

New Hire:

**Lindsay Reed - Student Worker**

Promotion:

**Estelle Jefcoat - Admin. Assistant 4**

Visit GOHSEP's Getting It Right webpage for information on upcoming classes/schedules!!

getting it right!



## Request For Articles

If you would like to include your information/article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact:  
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## Follow GOHSEP's Social Media....

Websites: [gohsep.la.gov](http://gohsep.la.gov) or [getagameplan.org](http://getagameplan.org)

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